



The Battlefield Dispatch

Success at Chickamauga! On to Chattanooga! 150th Anniversary of the Campaign for Chattanooga

By Park Ranger Christopher Young

On September 23, 2013, as the proverbial dust settled over the landscape of Chickamauga Battlefield, park staff could be confident they had honored the memories of the soldiers and civilians who participated and suffered on these now hallowed grounds 150 years ago.

Sesquicentennial commemorative programs began at Chickamauga Battlefield on September 14 and September 15, during which visitors were able to participate in a multitude of programs. At the visitor center, guests heard the martial sounds produced by the 8th Georgia Band or learned about Civil War artillery by participating in a firing demonstration. In the park education tent, children of all ages engaged in hands-on activities designed to teach them about the Civil War.

Away from the visitor center, individuals and families found several program options. The principal program for the weekend, a Civil War timeline, transported visitors to North Georgia in 1860. From that year, they walked down a path, stopping at other scenarios (1861, 1862, 1863), experiencing events that may have occurred in the area through 1864.

Visitors not able to participate in the timeline were encouraged to visit the Wilder Brigade Monument, where they met living historians and learned about

Colonel Wilder's "Lightning Brigade" and how his men used the deadly Spencer rifle to their advantage during the battle.

Near the monument, at the recreation field, visitors boarded buses taking them to Horseshoe Ridge, where they met soldiers from the 21st Ohio Infantry and learned about that unit's last stand on September 20, 1863.

Visitors also participated in special tours at the Brotherton Cabin, learning about the Confederate Breakthrough that turned the tide of battle.

Commemorative programs began again on Wednesday, September 18, the opening day of the battle, 150 years later. From that day until September 20, park rangers and historians provided real-time programs following the footsteps of the men in the ranks. These programs ranged from the opening shots at Alexander's Bridge to the assault on Horseshoe Ridge and Snodgrass Hill.

Additionally, on Friday, September 20, park staff, the Friends of the Park, and the General William H. Lytle Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans unveiled the newly reconstructed Lytle monument, honoring the fallen "warrior poet" from Cincinnati.

Over the weekend of September 21 and 22, rangers provided special programs focusing on the stories of the soldiers and their families portrayed in the park's



A Union soldier stands guard at the rededicated Lytle Brigade Monument (top), while a North Georgia civilian leads a group to the 1861 recruiting station along the timeline.

orientation film. These stories included the actions of Confederate General Benjamin Helm, Confederate Lieutenant Joshua Callaway, and Union Lieutenant George Van Pelt. In honor of Lieutenant Van Pelt, modern-day collectors and members of Loomis' Battery of Michigan Artillery displayed artifacts associated with the battery, including one of Van Pelt's original

(See SUCCESS, p. 4)

Superintendent's Sidebar

On October 26, 2013, park staff, the Friends of Moccasin Bend, and members of the Cherokee Nation, including Principal Chief Bill John Baker, officially dedicated the Brown's Ferry Federal Road on Moccasin Bend National Archeological District.

The initial scene at the Brown's Ferry Road was reminiscent of the emotions associated with thousands of the Cherokee Nation who crossed this relatively small piece of ground. The thick fog and cold, dew-covered grass provided the backdrop for a melancholy ceremony.

However, though the cold air remained, the rising sun evaporated the fog, ushering in a magnificent scene for the forest and the old road trace to unfold behind the speaker's podium. The clear, crisp setting was perfect for a dedication ceremony honoring the sacrifices of those who suffered on the Trail of Tears, and for the members of the Cherokee Nation who continue to thrive in the United States and around the world.

After all participants arrived and were seated, the formal ceremony began. In addition to the poignant words spoken by the park and the Friends' staff, Chief Baker reminded the crowd of the suffering the Cherokee endured 175 years ago, yet reiterated that, today, the Cherokee Nation is alive and well. Once Chief Baker concluded his remarks, Tommy Wildcat, a member of the Cherokee Nation, assisted with the formal dedication by providing a prayer, spoken entirely in Cherokee, and flute music.

The ceremony was certainly moving and can be counted as a major accomplishment for all the partners involved in making the Brown's Ferry Federal Road trace a reality.

Cathleen Cook,
Superintendent

Remembering the Trail...

By Park Ranger Christopher Young

On Thursday, October 24, 2013, the effort of months of work was finally made a reality. Not only did Moccasin Bend National Archeological District have a clear path to the Tennessee River via the Brown's Ferry Federal Road, but visitors could also read interpretive wayside exhibits and gain valuable information in understanding the vast history associated with the road.

National military park staff spent the morning and early afternoon placing four waysides along the trace in anticipation of the road's dedication on Saturday, October 26.

Although major effort was involved in physically placing the waysides in the ground, the process began long before with researching and writing the interpretive text. The major hurdle was summarizing the vast amount of historical information in a few sentences in order to transport visitors over the road as it appeared more than a century ago.

Initially, the information was consolidated, written, sent to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail's office in Santa Fe, N.M., and vetted for publication. Once the park was satisfied with the exhibits' photos and text, the Friends of Moccasin Bend, using a generous grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation, procured bids and chose a company to fabricate the waysides.

Finally, as staff members placed the exhibits in the ground, the Brown's Ferry Federal Road became an inviting part of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Park staff invite you to take the time to drive over to Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, park in the lot near the Brown's Ferry Federal Road sign, and take a hike to the Tennessee River. You might just learn something you never knew about Moccasin Bend and Chattanooga.



The new orientation wayside at Brown's Ferry welcomes visitors to the trace with park information and imbedded maps (left). Park and Friends of Moccasin Bend staff watch as the final wayside is placed along the Tennessee River near the historic Brown's Ferry crossing (above).

An Army of Volunteers

By Park Ranger Will Sunderland

In the fall of 1863, tens of thousands of soldiers fought and bled in the forests and family farms around Chattanooga. In blistering heat, pouring rain, terrifying hunger, and painful homesickness, these men served for a wide variety of reasons. Many soldiers came as volunteers, offering their services and their very lives.

Their stories continue to draw people to visit Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park today. The work of preserving these grounds, however, is not possible without the work of another army of volunteers. Though rarely asked to volunteer their lives, those who serve as Volunteers-in-Parks use their skills and abilities to welcome millions of visitors to the park each year.

Over the last year, more than **1,600 volunteers** from all walks of life have donated more than **19,400 hours** of their time to the park. Projects include staffing the front desk at the visitor center, leading the park's Youth Conservation Corps, preserving monuments, collecting trash thrown out from passing vehicles, removing invasive plant species and overgrowth to restore the park landscape and much more.

When trees fall on trails in the Lookout Mountain Battlefield, trained volunteers pick up chainsaws to cut them out. When the park hosts a living history weekend, from firing a Civil War cannon to portraying the Civilian Conservation Corps, volunteers step into period clothing to offer a fresh perspective on another time. Organizing the park library, transcribing Civil War letters, opening park gates, patrolling park trails, donating just a few hours of time during the Civil War Trust's annual Park Day - these are all ways in which volunteers make a difference.



Volunteers from the UTC Chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity work on the Federal Road on Moccasin Bend

Civil War armies required tens of thousands of soldiers, the largest armies ever seen on United States soil. Commemorating their actions and providing a place to interpret their experiences to today's visitors requires an army of volunteers. To all who gave of their time and talents last year, the park staff would like to say ...

Thank You!

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for the special events in November, please contact park volunteer coordinator Will Sunderland at:

423-752-5213 ext. 137
OR
william_sunderland@nps.gov.

More information and applications for open positions can be found on the park website under the "Support Your Park" link

www.nps.gov/chch



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the "Gateway to the Deep South." Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. Renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops with victory and control of the city.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Disease in War Disease in Peace

By Park Ranger Will Sunderland

It seems inevitable. Sometime over the winter months a sniffle or worse will settle in, draining your energy and throwing off your daily routine. Despite medical advances, some diseases never seem to go away and continue to disrupt our lives.

Disease ravaged Civil War armies, killing twice as many soldiers as battle wounds. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers camped closely together spread disease like wildfire. The majority killed by disease died in the first 18 months of the war. By 1863, without any scientific proof as to why, army surgeons noted that soldiers who practiced better personal hygiene got sick and died at far lower rates. The Union army began to enforce strict hygienic discipline, particularly with human waste dispersal. Health rates improved.

With Confederate command in-fighting following the Battle of Chickamauga, Confederate morale and health plummeted as a lack of discipline from

above filtered down through the ranks. With less officer direction and control, hygiene often suffered as soldiers relieved themselves around camp. Disease rates rose. Once order was restored in command, hygiene and nutrition improved.

This winter, just as was true for soldiers 150 years ago, a few simple steps can go a long way toward keeping you healthy:

1. **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick. If you are sick, sometimes it's best to just stay home.
2. **Cover your mouth and nose** when coughing or sneezing. If you don't have a tissue, cough or **sneeze into your elbow** to reduce germs spread on your hands.
3. **Clean your hands**, especially after being around people, as when shopping or at school
4. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth** to reduce the spread of germs.
5. Practice other good health habits: clean/disinfect at home, work, or school, especially when someone is ill; get plenty of sleep; be physically active; manage your stress; drink plenty of fluids; and eat nutritious food.



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The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

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cannon captured at Chickamauga.

Finally, on the evening of September 21, the Friends of the Park hosted the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra at the Wilder Brigade Monument. Members of the community were invited to hear the stirring musical compilations associated with the Civil War.

Although these events marked the conclusion of the sesquicentennial programs focusing on the Battle of Chickamauga, the 1863 Campaign for Chattanooga was much larger than one battle.

On November 22, the Friends of the Park in partnership with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area will host Earl Hess, P.h.D., at McCallie School at 7 p.m. for a special lecture.

In addition, between November 23-25 and on November 27, park staff and volunteers will provide commemorative programs in and around Chattanooga. Visitors will be able to participate in various living history demonstrations and guided tours at Lookout Mountain, Orchard Knob, Missionary Ridge, and Ringgold Gap.

For additional program information, please visit www.nps.gov/chch and click on the “150th Anniversary – 2013” link.

Another great way to keep up-to-date on programs and other occurrences within the park is through Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/chchnps>

